

## THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

JOHN L. BILL ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 8, 1974

Mr. Ed Brune, President Board of Trustees Sheldon Independent School District 8540 C.E. King Parkway Houston, Texas 77044

Open Records Decision No. 38

Re: Voters list in school election.

Dear Mr. Brune:

Pursuant to Section 7 (a) of the Open Records Act, Art. 6252-17a, V. T. C. S., the Sheldon Independent School District has requested our decision on whether a member of the public has the right to examine and take notes on or otherwise duplicate the list of registered voters who cast ballots in a recently completed school board election. These records come into the custody of the board of trustees under their obligation to canvass the returns of the elections which they supervise, and one copy is to be retained for public inspection. Article 8.29a, Election Code, V. T. C. S.

We conclude the requested documents are "records for public inspection" once the polls for the particular election have closed. Articles 8.29a and 8.23, Election Code, V.T.C.S. In particular, we do not find any of the exceptions of Section 3 (a) of the Open Records Act to apply.

As the documents in question are public records, open to inspection during normal business hours, we further advise you that under Sec. 4 of the Open Records Act, the requesting party should be afforded an opportunity to take notes of the contents of the documents in question, or to pay for their duplication, or both.

very truly yours,

JOHN L. HILL

Attorney General of Texas

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APPROVED:

CARL, Staff Legislative Assistant

DAVID M. KENDALL, Chairman Opinion Committee